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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,631	01/20/2004	Bruno Leconte	852663.403	8263
38106	7590	07/25/2005		
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092				
			EXAMINER TRAN, MICHAEL THANH	
			ART UNIT 2827	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/760,631

Applicant(s)

LECONTE ET AL.

Examiner

Michael t. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on January 20, 2004 through June 29, 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 062904.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Communications dated January 20, 2004 through June 29, 2004, claims 1-28 are active in this application.

### ***Foreign Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) (d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. The information disclosure statement filed June 29, 2004 has been considered.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Lazar et al. [U.S. Patent #6,741,515].

With respect to claim 28, Lazar et al. disclose, in figure 3, a method for selectively applying to word lines of a memory array signals of variable polarity, negative or positive, each signal having a value that varies according to a word line address, the method comprising: delivering group selection signals of variable polarity [via 250] for selecting a group of word lines [240, etc.] from a plurality of groups of word lines; delivering subgroup selection signals of variable polarity [via 232] for selecting a subgroup of word lines [240, etc.], one of the subgroups of word lines comprising a set of word lines belonging to different groups of word lines; and multiplexing [via 278, etc.] the group and subgroup selection signals to select and selectively apply one of these signals to one of the word lines. It is noted that the word line bus contains a plurality of sub-word lines.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 1-27 are allowable over the prior art of record.

7. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of records does not show (in addition to the other elements in the claim) the following:

- At least one subgroup decoder delivering subgroup selection signals of variable polarity for selecting a subgroup of word lines from a plurality of subgroups of

word lines, each subgroup of word lines comprising a set of word lines belonging to different groups of word lines; and word line drivers with one word line driver per word line, each comprising means for multiplexing the group and subgroup selection signals, for selecting and selectively applying one of these signals to a word line.

- A first subgroup decoder delivering negative and positive subgroup selection signals for selecting a subgroup of the word lines from a plurality of subgroups of the word lines, each of the subgroups of word lines comprising a set of word lines belonging to different groups of word lines; and a plurality of word line drivers connected to the plurality of word lines, respectively, such that each word line driver corresponds to a respective one of the word lines, each word line driver being structured to drive the corresponding word lines based on the group and subgroup selection signals.
- A third MOS transistor having a gate connected to receive a complementary second selection voltage that is complementary to the second selection voltage, a first conduction terminal connected to first conduction terminal of the first MOS transistor, and a second conduction terminal connected to the line of the memory array; and a fourth MOS transistor having a gate connected to receive a complementary first selection voltage that is complementary to the first selection voltage, a first conduction terminal connected to the first conduction terminal of the second MOS transistor, and a second conduction terminal connected to the line of the memory array.

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**Conclusion**

8. When responding to the Office action, Applicants are advised to provide the Examiner with line and page numbers of the application and/or references cited to assist the Examiner in the prosecution of this case.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1795. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30-6:00 P.M.

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1650.



Michael T. Tran  
Art Unit 2827  
July 21, 2005

MICHAEL T. TRAN  
JUL 21 2005